

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 11

March 26, 2003

SUBJECT: HOLSTERING BACK-UP AND OFF-DUTY FIREARMS

PURPOSE: The Department's procedure regarding the carrying and holstering of a uniformed officer's primary duty weapon is well established. However, confusion exists regarding the proper holstering of a back-up firearm as well as the carrying of a concealable firearm by non-uniformed and off-duty officers.

This Order clarifies the procedure for the holstering of a back-up firearm carried on-duty, a concealable firearm carried off-duty, and a firearm carried by on-duty non-uniformed officers.

PROCEDURE:

- I. FIREARM(S) CARRIED ON-DUTY OR OFF-DUTY.** An officer carrying a back-up firearm on-duty and officers carrying a firearm off-duty shall ensure that the firearm conforms to the specifications and regulations set forth by the Department.

Note: Questions regarding approved firearms should be directed to the Department Armory or the Uniform and Equipment Specifications Manual.

- II. HOLSTERING A BACK-UP OR OFF-DUTY WEAPON.** An on-duty officer carrying a back-up firearm or an officer carrying a firearm off-duty shall carry the firearm in a secured manner. The firearm shall be concealed and contained in such a manner as to prevent the firearm from falling out or becoming accessible to unauthorized persons when engaged in physical police activities such as a foot pursuit or physical altercation. If the firearm is secured in a pocket, no other items should be carried in that same pocket to ensure immediate and unhindered access to the firearm. Additionally, an approved firearm with a shrouded or internal hammer is preferable for carrying in a pocket, as a firearm with an exposed hammer spur is more likely to become snagged on clothing when drawing.

Note: When an off-duty officer carries a firearm in his/her waistband, the firearm must be secured in a holster that is specifically designed for that firearm and the holster must be securely attached to the waistband or belt.

III. FIREARM(S) CARRIED IN A CONTAINER.

Back-Up or Concealed Off-Duty Firearms. An on-duty officer may carry a back-up firearm or an off-duty officer may carry a concealed firearm in a container that is immediately accessible to and under the control of the officer. Such a container may include, but is not limited to, a briefcase, fanny pack, backpack, or purse. Unless the container is specifically designed to carry that firearm, the firearm shall be in a holster specifically designed for the firearm before it is secured in the container.

IV. NON-UNIFORMED OFFICERS. On-duty officers in a non-uniformed assignment shall carry their primary firearm in a holster specifically designed for that firearm and securely attached to the officer.

V. DUTY ASSIGNMENT OR TACTICAL REQUIREMENT VARIATIONS. A commanding officer may exempt an officer from these requirements when the nature or tactical requirements of a particular duty assignment require such an exemption.

AMENDMENTS: This Order amends Section 3/610.70, 3/610.80 and 3/610.90 of the Department Manual.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITIES: The Commanding Officer, Training Group, shall monitor compliance with this directive in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.

WILLIAM J. BRATTON
Chief of Police

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